

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

Minutes: Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
Date of Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2006
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Community Conference Rm.

I. Roll Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arefi, Arthur, Garcia, Iringan,
McCarter, Swiger
Commissioners Absent: Chahal, Mateo, Swiger
City Council Liaison Present: Bob Livengood
MUSD Liaison Absent: Marsha Grilli

II. Alternates Alternate Arefi was seated.

IV. Minutes **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of November 17, 2005.
Amended item five to note that Tsukuba's visit to Milpitas in October
2006 will be set at thirty adult visitors.

M/S: Garcia/Iringan Ayes: All

V. Agenda **MOTION** to approve the January 26, 2006 agenda.

M/S: Garcia/Iringan Ayes: All

VI. Announcements/Correspondence

Staff announced that the Commissioners Recognition Event will be different than prior years and commissioners will be recognized at the City Council meeting on April 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Staff announced that the Community Advisory Commission has surveys to send out to people in the community. She distributed the surveys to the commissioners.

VII. Citizen's Forum

None attending.

VIII. ELECTIONS

Staff called for nominations of Chair. Dennis Grilli was named.

MOTION to elect Dennis Grilli as Chair of the Commission.

M/S: Garcia/Iringan Ayes: All

Chair Grilli called for nominations of Vice Chair. Echo Arthur was named.

MOTION to elect Echo Arthur as Vice Chair of the Commission.

M/S: Iringan/Garcia Ayes: All

IX. Old Business

**1. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP
MILPITAS-TO-HUIZHOU CULTURAL EXCHANGE: APRIL 2006**

Chair Grilli stated that the visit was a success. One student visited for four days along with a vice principal and city official from Huizhou. The student stayed with a Milpitas family. Some activities included a tour of city facilities, a visit to San Francisco and Yosemite. The group then went on to Southern California. Grilli stated that the planning for a visit to Huizhou in April has begun with a goal of sending ten students. The current Milpitas Post contained an announcement about the trip to Huizhou. Grilli forwarded a parental advisory about the upcoming visit to Principal Gary at Milpitas High School. He is also attempting to recruit a teacher or administrator to visit Huizhou. To date there are not any adult chaperones. Huizhou has inquired about a cultural event in Milpitas so that they can send paintings for a viewing along with a visit from the artists to do a show and hands on demonstration. Commissioner Arefi asked if the artists are students. Grilli said no. The earliest date of travel would be the Thursday before Spring Break, with the latest return date on the Monday after Spring Break.

2. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILLIPINES: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Commissioner Iringan reported that Dagupan has chosen twelve students to visit Milpitas and hopefully they can obtain visas. All of the students are similar in age to Milpitas high school students. They are now requesting that Milpitas issue a letter of invitation in order to help secure visas. Chair Grilli asked what needed to be included in the letter. Iringan said the letter should state that they are visiting Milpitas as exchange students and are invited to visit in May. Iringan also noted that there would be two adult chaperones. Grilli noted that it is more difficult to obtain a visa from the Philippines and if the students need to be registered in the school district for longer than four days in order to qualify, then he can speak with the school superintendent and perhaps this would assist with the visa process. Iringan will follow-up. Iringan also noted that Dagupan would follow whatever itinerary the commission recommends for their visit. Commissioner Arefi asked if Sister Cities International could assist with obtaining a visa. Grilli said no, the State Department only handles those issues. Staff will assist with the letter of invitation.

3. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN: SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

Vice Chair Arthur stated that she put information in the Milpitas Post calendar section about the Tsukuba visit. She noted that, so far, twenty students and adults have shown interest. She has distributed applications to public and private schools, and placed flyers in various city centers. She noted that Tsukuba had sent an official invitation to Mayor Esteves and they would like to know if he would attend. Staff will follow up with the Mayor. Arthur will also contact the Mayor. If the Mayor cannot attend for the entire visit, he is welcome to attend for a shorter period. Arthur stated that every year she has personally paid the Chamber of Commerce fee to obtain store discounts to purchase supplies for sister cities events and, if possible, would like this fee to be paid out of the sister cities budget. Staff will follow-up. Arthur would like to have an announcement made via the television system at Russell and Rancho schools. The visit to Tsukuba will take place from June 19, 2006 to June 28, 2006.

4. ITALIAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH

Commissioner Arefi stated that he has not received any substantive information from the Sister County Commission on developing a sister city relationship in Italy. He was also informed that his prior government contact in Empoli, Italy is no longer in office. Arefi suggested that the commission should probably take another course. One idea would be to make direct contact through the sister cities international website in the section for cities seeking cities. He recently viewed the website and noticed that out of forty-four cities seeking cities, twenty-eight specifically mentioned that they are looking for a city in the United States. He stated that he could add Milpitas as a city seeking a city in Italy , as well as contacting other cities in Europe. Arefi noted that he would still follow up with the Sister County Commission as well. Chair Grilli suggested focusing on Western Europe. Commissioner Garcia stated that it would be good to focus on a city that is already searching for a sister city. With the commission's consensus, Arefi will start making contact through the website. Arefi suggested using the same letter of interest that was sent to Empoli, Italy and e-mailing this letter to the contact person for each possible sister city. Staff suggested limiting the number of cities initially contacted to two or three to see what type of response is received.

X. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Sister City Relationships/Cultural Exchanges:
 - a. Tsukuba City, Japan
 - b. Dagupan City, Philippines
 - c. Huizhou City, China
2. European Sister City Research
3. 2005 Work Plan Update, as needed

XII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 23, 2006.

MOTION to adjourn.

M/S: Garcia/Iringan Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz
Recording Secretary

Cindy Maxwell
Principal Administrative Analyst